

to let the mother in until I saw her, but they disobeyed orders, and when I went to her I found she had thrown herself down by the bed and was kissing her son. I told her the danger, and insisted that she was running unnecessary risk. The boy recovered; five days after the mother was brought in with diphtheria and died.

VALUE OF SANITATION.—Dr. John C. McVail says, (in Glasgow Sanitary Journal): If the question be asked: Where is the proof that our preventive measures—our sanitation—have had the results we speak of? the answer is at hand. It is given by the Registrar-General in the language of figures. He points out that, according to the newest English life-table, the children born in England in any one year have now divided among them “nearly two million years of life”—more than would have been the case thirty-five years ago. In England and Wales the annual mortality per million of population per annum has been as follows: 1861-65, 22,595; 1866-70, 22,436; 1871-75, 21,975; 1876-80, 20,817; 1881-85, 19,310. Comparing the first period and the last, the difference is 3,285 per million, and taking the population at 30,000,000, the total annual saving is about 100,000. And if for every death there are twenty cases of sickness, then we have two millions less cases of sickness in the first period. * * * You can count the cost of each case of sickness, of lost work, of doctors' Bills and so on, and also the monetary value of each of the 100,000 lives.

ARSENIC IN THE HOME.—Mr. A. Stokes, F.C.S., F.I.C., public analyst, Paddington, Eng., says:—Of wall-papers submitted to me, 10 per cent. are found to contain arsenic. This is a high proportion, but then only suspected samples are sent for analysis. One of my rooms I found thus papered. Omitting articles in which its occurrence has been purely accidental, arsenic has been found of late years to be present in some samples of muslins, cretonnes, wall-papers, playing-cards, the glaze of some enamelled stew-pans, the paper of fancy boxes, and in some furs. These last are usually the furs prepared by amateurs. So that we may picture an infant placed by an unfortunate concurrence of circumstances in a room covered with arsenical paper, having its cot draped with muslin or cretonne, fed on food pre-

pared in a glazed saucepan, itself covered by a rug, and playing with some fancy box of sweets or toys, all of these containing a minute but unnecessary amount of arsenic. One has no wish to be an alarmist, and it must be acknowledged that cases of any ill results being traced to the use of these articles are rare. None the less, seeing how unnecessary they are, and how each year arsenic seems to be finding its way into new quarters, it seems advisable to stop its further progress. This can only be done by prohibiting by law, as in some other countries, the use of arsenic for producing colours.

CAUSES OF LAMP ACCIDENTS.—A Mr. Marvin is urging in the Sanitary Record for legislation for dangerous lamps. He says that in “the United Kingdom 300 people are roasted alive every year” through the manufacture of dangerous lamps. In pursuing his investigations into the causes of the accidents, he discovered that more than half were occasioned by the breaking of the reservoir consequent on the lamp being upset, and at least 20 per cent. more by explosions arising from the ignition of the gas in the reservoir in endeavoring to extinguish the light by blowing down the chimney. The rest of the fatalities proceeded from the wick being wound down into the reservoir, the overheating of the burner, the filling of the lamp when alight, the impinging of a draught on the flame, and so forth. . . Even a simple clause in the Petroleum Bill, rendering obligatory two things—metal reservoirs, and burners that would bear being blown upon—would be better than no law at all, for it would reduce the mortality by at least two-thirds, and save the lives of 200 people a year.

A CUP OF TEA is generally made the wrong way. In the first place the tea is made too strong, thus losing the full tea flavor. In the second the tea is boiled, extracting the bitter tannic acid from the leaf, while the tea aroma is lost by evaporation. In China the tea is made weak in cups from which it is drunk, the water being poured boiling hot on the leaves, covered for a few minutes, and then drunk without either milk or sugar: the Chinese consider our use of them in tea as by no means the least proof of our barbarism.